

# FRS NEWSLETTER



## Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

Summer is almost over and #19 of the FRS Newsletter is lying in front of you. Looking at the statistics of the past few years, conditions should dramatically improve in the upcoming weeks. And that must be good news for any SW addict who has experienced rather bad times in the Summer period, in particular on 48 metres. Issue 20, the final 1998 edition, should be out mid December, before the X-Mas holiday season. What else can I say but "a lot of reading pleasure"?

## FRS NEWSCORNER

### FRS-Holland Activities

Following the June 21st 1998 broadcast, FRS-Holland was inactive during the Summer period. Propagation was rather poor, so it was too bad being off air in July and August. In actual fact conditions on the 21st were quite good and FRS-H was cutting out a fair good signal on 6249/6248 metres. That day the German Service was re-introduced. Following a 15 year silence, Mart Jones who did his last show on FRS in August 1982 (11) journeyed on the station. Response from some of the German listeners was very positive, the German Service was missed for almost 12 months. Next Sunday, September 27th FRS-H will take to the airwaves between 07:52 and 11:00 UTC. Please include FRS Magazine, the Show SW Parade, Orfeat (new) and of course FRS-Goes-DX.

During the show, I will once again mention the names of six FRS listeners. That means each presenter mentions in his show two names, one in the first part and one in the later part using the slogan "Right now from FRS-Holland". Is listening to FRS-Holland? This item is not part of the DX-Show! Any of those six persons hearing his name on air in the above slogan, must send us a letter telling us at what time his name was mentioned. We can then himself a free radio cassette recording making a choice from the comprehensive FRS Sales Productions catalogue.

Since 1990 FRS-celebrates its annual birthday in October when conditions are stable and favourable. This year we hope to celebrate our 18th birthday on Sun October 18th or perhaps even the 25th! Check it out yourself, at the very moment we are unable to provide you with much detailed info regarding that broadcast. It could be on 48 but perhaps also on 41 metres around 7490 kHz. Last minute info about dates/times will be given via the Internet, on our website, via newsgroups and by Email via our comprehensive SWN addressbook! So if you are on the Internet and you want to be part of our address book, simply send an Email! It's totally free. October 18th a selection of birthday programmes will be aired via the facilities of the SWRS. This will take place between 12:00-14:00 CET on 11470/29mb & 7500/41mb. At the same time our full programme is hopefully running on 48 metres, but as you will understand this is not in parallel with the aforementioned frequencies.

### FRS-Holland from now on via SWRS

In the first weekend of September, FRS-Holland made its debut via the transmitters of the SWRS. The organisation is airing numerous stations on various frequencies. For more info regarding this interesting project, check out the SW News section in this edition. Sat/Sun September 5th/6th a 30 minute Peter Vlaarburg Show was heard on 11470 kHz USB in particular the Sun 08:30-10:00 UTC. This was received in fine quality in Western Europe. What's the idea about these SWRS relay? Basically FRS jocks are recording 30 minute shows from time to time (not a fixed schedule) which are aired via the SWRS facilities on one of their frequencies (mainly 11470 kHz). These shows are aired more than once over a period of a few weeks. After a while these shows are replaced by fresh ones. Any of these pro's - which will be the way he is replaced among those of colleague free radio SW stations - can be heard on a 1st, 2nd or 4th Sunday. On the 3rd Sun FRS-Holland will be heard slightly longer, namely for 60 minutes, this will be the case November 15th and December 20th 12:00-13:00 CET. There is a chance that a regular DX-Show will be aired on 3rd Sundays as part of this 60 minute programme. Important to know is that on 3rd Sundays the SW relay service can be heard not only on 11470 but also on 41 and most likely 48. For the latest schedules we refer at their informative website: <http://www.kerkstraatSWRS.com>.

We'd like to point out that the SWRS broadcasts are in addition to our "normal" 3 or 4 hour 3rd Sun broadcasts on 48 metres! It's a good opportunity to be on air more often, even when it concerns rather short programmes!

### Jingle Mania

In the June edition we mentioned the introduction of a set of new jingles containing German, Swedish (1) and English Ingles. In the mean time we have found out the whereabouts of our German SW voice-over. It took us months to find him in the US to Box 2277 in Herlen. At the same time we hope to do a recording session with our German man, the Swedish ones will be soon recorded. In June 1998 2nd latest sophisticated recording software in combination with professional production elements and music beds should guarantee some real cool stuff coming up real soon!

### New FRS-Holland logo

After lengthy preparation we can proudly announce that our new logo is officially finished. We will introduce it in October, it will be used on our new stickers and QSL cards, info-sheets and discourse on our stationery. So make sure you drop us a line following the 18th birthday celebrations.... It will be more than worth while!

### FRS-Holland's website

>[www.kerkstraatSWRS.com/home.htm](http://www.kerkstraatSWRS.com/home.htm)<. Now you can also reach it via >[frsholland@swrs.com](mailto:frsholland@swrs.com)<. Email addresses are >[frsholland@swrs.com](mailto:frsholland@swrs.com)< or >[frsholland@swrs.com](mailto:frsholland@swrs.com)<. Postal address: P.O.Box 2277 6049 ZG Herlen 7 The Netherlands

## SW FREE RADIO SCENE

### ICONDITIONS/ GENERAL

In this edition we cover the news of the period mid June - mid September 1998 expressing on the developments in the past few weeks! Conditions on 48 metres have been (very) poor in the Summer period, the same old story. Positive exception propagation on 76 metres has been quite good lately! Many Dutch stations have been active on 76 metres not only during the weekend but also during most weekdays. For example Tuesday August 4th and Wednesday August 5th when no less than 5 Dutch (on both days) were on air. Most remarkable newsletters are perhaps the ones on the Farnes and Radio Free London celebrating 30 years of legal broadcasts back in August. Perhaps also the fact that a number of stations are considered to be heard below 6200 instead of above... See the newsletter!

[E] **August 23rd RADION ACTION** was heard testing on 6291 in preparation of its final 48 output later that morning on 6290 kHz. Signal quality was good. Address is P.O.Box 20 in 7032 ZH Zeistam, the Netherlands.

[E] **RADIO ALFA LIMA INTERNATIONAL** (R. AL Int) was heard during several occasions on 48 metres in July & August. Most times are carried out on freqs around 6270 kHz. Signal strength is mostly good, the station makes use of a very impressive antenna tower. To mention a few dates: Sun July 5th & August 19th 6270, July 19th Sun & August 9th 6275. Address is P.O.Box 665 7900 AB Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

[E] **ALTERNATIVE RADIO** from the Netherlands was heard on 6193 Sun Sept. 13th. No further info available.

[E] **RAADIO ANTONY** is yet another (new?) Dutch station which was heard August 18th on 6280 kHz. Address?

[E] The new address of **RADIO ARGUS** is 9 The Holies, London N11 2EA, UK. Email: [radioargus@red.com](mailto:radioargus@red.com) or [radioargus@cheerful.com](mailto:radioargus@cheerful.com)

[E] **RADIO ARMADA** from the Netherlands can be reached via P.O.Box 9, 8130 AA Lelystad.

[E] **RAADIO BANDONICA** is a branchnew Dutch station which was heard August 9th on 6275. Also on August 30th, Sept. 6th & Sept. 12th Bandonica was noted with nice signals on 6275. Mostly tims are taking place early in the morning (06:30 UTC). Power is 45W (one 807), same address as Radio Alfa LIMA Int.

[E] **GERMAN RADIO BENELUX** (1) was heard during several occasions on 76, 46 and 51 metres making it one of Germany's most active stations. Sun July 12th 6200, Sun July 26th 5810 August 8th 3905 (Level 48) Benelux/ 5816 Sun August 9th (SW) August 15th Sun 6210

**[E] RADIO BILLIE STAR** is currently one of Holland's most active stations on SW. Over the past few months the station was regularly heard on 48.8 & 76 metres. During most broadcasts strong signals were produced in the 48 mB 6293 is the main frequency. A marathon live tim took place starting Sat August 1st ending the next morning. Listeners were invited to call the station. August 18th saw R.Blue Star listing with good results, in particular in remote areas. The station is also active on 76 metres. Address: Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle, The Netherlands. Quite recently the station is on the Internet: < <http://www.milan.torbeuster.nl> >. Email is < [bluestar@hpmail.nl](mailto:bluestar@hpmail.nl) >. Latest news: Sun Sept. 20th Blue Star issued a new 150W rig on 6185 kHz. Signal strength was very good, modulation was ok. Next weekend a new 200W 76 mb rig will be tested.

**[F] RADIO BOOMERANG** was heard listing on 6295 Sat July 11th. Modulation was poor. Add: P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

**[E] Remember RADIO BORDERWINTER** (Groninger) was raided on Tuesday April 14th 1998? In the mean time the station is back. Already in June there were reports about a station calling itself 'Tubusradio Radio'. In the mean time it appears the correct name is Gummekro Radio which was frequently heard both on 48.8 & 76 metres. Add: (5). When writing include 2 IRC & 2 IC2.

**[E] RADIO BRIGITTE** is a station changing frequency quite often. In July/August the station was on 6257, 6288 as well as on 'off-band channels' such as 6575 (1) and 6540. A test on the latter freq. took place in Sept 11th. Modulation quality remains poor. Address is Box 10, 7094 ZG Rouven in the Netherlands.

**[E] Sun July 12th BRITAIN RADIO INT.** (4) was heard over the 130W JRR tx with a three hour special show celebrating an 18th birthday. Congratulations to Roger Davis and the rest of the crew. In the past few years BRI used its own txs to put out the birthday celebrations, we are not informed why this time shows were only used via the relay facilities of JRR. JRR reports that BRI is now also on FM in South East Island. In the meantime BRI could have been noticed via Radio Cochiquaz in South America.

**[E] RADIO CANARIL AGC** was noted on 6200 via Radio Pandora Sun July 1st. Email < [canaril@msn.com](mailto:canaril@msn.com) >.

**[E] RADIO CITY** was putting out an oldies show on 7460 Sun August 2nd. Address is (1).

**[E] The 'other' one, RADIO CITY FM**, now uses two addresses. SW listeners must use (1c) while all FM listeners can contact the station via P.O.Box 40045 Düsseldorf, Germany.

**[E] CRAZY WAVE RADIO** was heard on 6280 July 19th. CWIR also participated in the massive Level 48 broadcast in August. Email < [crazywaveradio@hotmail.com](mailto:crazywaveradio@hotmail.com) >. Do NOT use Box 41 1131 in D-55068 Mainz anymore!

**[E] RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** is nowadays concentrating on 76 metres and was heard on 3925 with a phone-in show June 22th. The same freq. was also used Fri August 28th when a blue rock show was aired with guest DJ Peter V. between 20.00-22.00 UTC. Latest news: Sun Sept. 20th in the morning hours REICH tested on 6290 kHz with approx. 100W. Signal quality was excellent, especially the modulation was very good. The 76 mb tx has been modified enabling the station to broadcast on 48 metres as well. Address is P.C.Box 663, 7900 AR in Hoogeveen.

**[E] EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO**, tested on 7442 June 29th Sun. Further tests were heard Monday August 10th (8276) and Sept. 6th when EMR was active on 6200 (08.13 UTC) & 7300. During all tests txs (3) were played Sun Sept. 6th 2000 were excellent. EMR was only very short. Address is Box 2272, 6048 ZG Hengelo. Latest news: EMR tested on 9355 in the morning hours of Sun September 20th. A tilt signal (20W only) were heard in Germany.

**[E] THE FARMERS FROM HOLLAND**, the most powerful SW pirate radio station, was raided twice. PTT officers tracked down the station on Sunday July 12th. Just after 12 UTC the Farmers were raided. Of course also some police men were present at the moment of the raid. Considered were a number of vital transmitter units being part of the Rohde & Schwarz 1 kW rig and the modulator which is a separate unit not belonging to the tx cabinet. It looks like the raid was not planned, several other (both AM & FM) stations were raided too that Sunday. The Farmers were just unlucky. Later that day the Farmers returned with low power but already on the next Sunday, the station was back on full power. The second raid took place 8 weeks later on Sunday Sept 9th at 15.28 Dutch local time. The transmitter was destroyed by the Farmers' crew (1), police and Dutch PTT. The cabinet for the transmitting units was not destroyed, so they took a few spare ones and two hours later the station returned same as it ever was! The big Rohde & Schwarz transmitter provider 1000W carrier power, including modulation the output is approx. 15 kW. Future plans include the use of a 10kW Philips tx. The transmitter is ready to go on air, the only 'night' problem is the Farmers need 330 Volts of power. They hope to solve this problem within a few months. The question is whether they are able to modulate 10 kW bc. Good news for people who wrote to the station in the past two years, a board will be answered when the next few months. The Farmers have also been broadcasting on a number of Wednesday evenings in August. Address: P.O.Box 105 in 7200 AC Dalfsen, The Netherlands. Internet: < <http://www.radiofarmers.nl> > or < <http://www.radiofarmers.com> >.

**[E] October 10/11th 1998** the FREEBIE RADIO INFO is organizing a DX-weekend in Duisburg. Some people of the Radio Project One will be attending the meeting. More info via FRI, P.O.Box 520112, D-44207 Duisburg, Germany.



**[E] RADIO FLUX** seems to be a new appearance on the 7648 mb from Holland. The announced address is: P.O.Box 203, NL-1990 CE Gakenstein. September 2nd & 13th saw the station on 3925. Email < [flux@houston1.org](mailto:flux@houston1.org) >. Flux used to be a PM pirate who didn't know anything about the SW pirate scene. The station uses a 100W PLL-controlled tx.

**[E] RADIO FREE LONDON** resumed trans on 76 metres 3945 in June. Ever since the station has been putting out Sat night shows on 76 metres on the usual 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends. RFL's 30th Birthday took place between Friday 7th to Sunday 16th August. Each evening during that period RFL was on 3945, mostly with far signals. From Friday night 14th until Sunday night August 16th two more transmitters were added: 5805kHz and 8194kHz.

AM (to London) 5805 provided good reception, 8194 was rather poor in the London area we were told. Several RFL shows from the past were aired as well as guest appearances from former RFL jocks. RFL used to be one of London's first professional pirates, starting in 1968 after Radio Caroline South and Nord were forced to cease operations on the Northwest. Through the years RFL has been broadcasting on FM and AM to London, with a rock format. Some of RFL's original crew members are currently to be heard on RFL SW. Congrats for so many years of great free radio! During the Bank Holiday weekend in the UK (last weekend August) RFL was on air from Sat to Monday. The 5805 transmitter went "bing" on Saturday evening, but RFL returned to the air on Sunday evening. During his show Andy Walker announced he would be leaving the station at the end of August. Whether this is temporary or for good is unknown. Our guess: temporary. Address is 1018, Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X1ELP or RFL, P.O. Box 103, 92040 Rueil, Cedex, France. Any Email reports are welcomed at < [RFLSW@usenet.com](mailto:RFLSW@usenet.com) >. The RFL web site address has been changed into:

> <http://www.5805.com/RFL-100MHz/RFL.htm> <

**[E] RADIO FREE WILLY** (1) was using the unusual freq of 6181 kHz Sun July 2nd. Listen to <http://www.5805.com/RFL.htm> was also selected.

**[SW addresses]** SW addresses, SW addresses, SW addresses, SW

1= P.O.Box 223451 D-42373 WUPPERTAL/DE Germany

2= 14 Stone Row COLERAINE/Co Londonderry BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland

4= P.O.Box 103/ 92040 RUEIL-CEDEX/France

5= 12 Domian Rd PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England

8= P.O.Box 239/MERLUN Ontario N0P 1W0/ Canada

9= 3489 Deff Road CLANFIELD/Waterloo/Herts PO8 0JU/ United Kingdom

10= SW/SR/Catala/Berlin 29/44254 YTTERBY/Sweden.

**[E] JRR** returned to the airwaves after being off air for quite some time Sat July 11th. August 28th 3925 was in use. Sat 6th MTR was on 6215 (not a good choice...). Power seems to be 50W, at least during some of the trans. Addis: P.O.Box 9251, 79554 Weil am Rhein in Germany.

**[E] THE JRR'S in Milan**, Italy did change the schedule for Radio 530 and the freq as well. 3990 kHz is now in operation before 20.00 UTC. It seems that some of the JRR's output is suffering interference from Radio Budapest broadcasting on 3985 & Deutsche Welle on 3985. Radio Bermuda/Dreieck (Bermuda Triangle, add:1) had its first show relayed by JRR's on Saturday 12th. The programme contained rock music.

**[E] JOLLY ROGER RADIO** is back on 6235.1-6236 after using 6245 for some time. BRI and Laser Hit! Hits are regularly relayed but also South American pirate radio station Cochiquaz. In return JRR was successfully relayed in Argentina via Radio Cochiquaz. A smaller 50W rig is so now and then used on 6280 (L-H). Addis: P.O.Box 39, Watford in Ireland.

**[E] RADIO TEAM IJZERENMAN** was active on 6205/6225 Sat Sept. 12th Sat. It is a joint venture of Dutch pirates Radio Barneveld and Zwarte Non who use these names for their medium wave activities. Interesting is the power which was used no less than 0.5 KW! Addis: P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

**[E] LASER HOT HITS** continues with weekly 76 & 48 mb frequencies. Especially during Sat nights 6219 provides good reception on the continent. During night-time 3920 kHz is used in parallel with the 48 mb outlet. Daytime reception on the continent is only fair at the best. A number of times LHH has also been heard on 6235 via the transmitter in RTR in Ireland. July 15th saw the station on 6200 with 50W. This is JRR's second SW outlet. LHH puts out up/rock format. Addis: (8).

**[E] LWWL** (1) the European radio organization, was heard all over the August 19th-22nd weekend. Times started of 0100wgn August 21st/21 on 76 mb, 3925 & 3900. Pwr was carried out by Radio Tonewalk and Radio Spain. The 3925 mb stations Sat evening another 4 stations representing Level 48 were heard on 3920 MHz. Spaceman, Starshine, Borkumradio and Crosby Wave Trade. Most 76 mb signals were in good quality. Sat morning CWIR, Borealis, Speedwing, Fusion, Lagoon & Raging Star were logged in the 6200-6250 frequency range. Sun Aug 23rd saw no less than 10 stations operating under the Level 48 umbrella. The following frequencies were used that day: 6235, 6205 (both



WMPR (6245, 6260, 6262, 6275, 6280) Addresses: Box 5, 8900 AA Rielie, Holland and the Wuppers one (1)

⑤ **LIVE WIRE RADIO** returned on 48 mhz/6285 following a very long absence Tuesday evening, August 25th. Reports suggest a very strong signal was being put out on that occasion. Add is 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0HA in the UK.

⑥ **RADIO NIGHTMARE** is a new station using the Radio 510 IRRS license. It's a German station and reception reports should be sent to B/BMusikproduktion, Radio Nightmare, Bahnhofstrasse 35a, D-67450 B - h - l - g g e l h e i m, Germany. Website <<http://www.members.ad.com/GRNRecords>> E-mail <[GRNRecords@ad.com](mailto:GRNRecords@ad.com)>

⑦ **DR NORTHLIGHT** from Germany returned on SW with a 3902kHz test Saturday 4th July 1998 from 20:00 to 5:00 hours UTC with a mere 7 Watts. We are doubting whether P.D.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen still is valid? Website <<http://members.ad.com/hordrich/radioindex.htm>>

⑧ **RADIO OZONE** is on air each weekend (Sat & Sun). The thing about Ozone is the station can decide about a feed channel. As a result several freqs are being used: June 27th 2000, the station testing on 5790, Sat July 4th/11th & August 1st 5783 was in use. Sun August 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd Ozone was on 6159 also relay BBSM from time to time. Sept 6th 6247 was replacing 6200 and Sat Sept 12th 5835 was on air. Smeilmoor 650 Chester Rd, London N19 5DF in the UK. Website <<http://www.houlters.com/comhpmgcs/bbsm4ozone>> Radio Ozone (6159) has a new Email address <[borrmekse@congaserver.com](mailto:borrmekse@congaserver.com)> Ozone is now on air each Saturday night between 21:00-23:00 GMT on a frequency within the 51 mb around 6000kHz.

⑨ **RADIO PAMELA** was heard on 5773 in the evening hours of Sat June 27th and Sat August 1st. Sat August 15th/16th Pamela was on 6210, a freq which was often used this Spring. Both 5773 & 6210 were in operation Sat August 22nd. Address: Semins, P.O.Box 36, 5622 ROMerswil in Switzerland.

⑩ **RADIO PANDORA** (10) continue to be heard often on 6210 or around 6275 kHz. Pandora relay 16 kHz hobby pirates. August 30th Radio Pandora celebrated three years of SW broadcasts on 6210 kHz. Because of Ozone regularly using 6159 Sun mornings, Pandora is forced to switch to 6275.

⑪ **RADIO PERFEKT** leaked on 6215 and put out an excellent signal Sun August 30th. Add is Radio Torsvallid

⑫ **Dutch PREPENDER** used 6187 & 6194 Sun Sept. 13th using 20W. Address: [www.radioblaaiblauw.nl](http://www.radioblaaiblauw.nl)

⑬ **Q82 (10)** conducted a long distant test on 17997U Sat June 27th July and August no activity we believe

⑭ **RADIO RIDICULOUS** made one of its rare items on 3935 kHz Sun August 30th. Address is Box 1019, 2200 BA Hoornedijk in the Netherlands.

⑮ **The SHORT WAVE RELAY SERVICE** have been heard with weekly tests on various frequencies including 7590USB, 6200AM, 6200USB, 136900USB & 114700USB. Several European but also South American stations are being relayed on Sat & Sun, most shows are frequently repeated over the weekend and mostly last 30 minutes. The station uses a number of sites having transmitting equipment & antenna towers. Two of these sites are located in Southern Europe. One site is used for broadcasts on 25, 22 & 19 metres using a coaxial switch. Power is approx. 300W. The other bigger site houses no less than three antenna towers, the 20 metre high is used for 11470 kHz, an 18 metre high dipole radiates the 7590 41 mb and 48 mb signals and finally there's a 15 m high tower used for tests on 22 metres/136900 kHz. Currently a new dipole is constructed for tests within the 76 mb which could start within weeks. The power on the latter site is approx. 200W. During the 3rd Sun several frequencies from the bigger site are in operation. Sat Sept. 12th/13th saw the SWRS testing on 22800USB/15900USB. Signals on the content were only poorish. September will also see tests on 6195 kHz following the BBC switching off on 6195 at 07:30 UTC. Latest news is that their Central European transmitting site will be soon activated. The 250W 48 mb site on this site is using AM modulation in contrast with most other SW equipment. So for best results have been advised via SWRS' main 11470 kHz/25 metres outlet. New stations via the SWRS are FRS-Holland and Yellow Submarine Radio (add-see F.R.I.) SWRS address is (1), Email <[swrs@swrs.net](mailto:swrs@swrs.net)> Website is at <<http://www.swrs.nl>>

⑯ **SOUTHERN MUSIC** will be back on air Saturday September 26th 1998 from 0900 to 10:00 UTC on 9565 via WRM in Miami, USA. Look at the following website for more info: <<http://www.southernmusic.com/9565.html>>

⑰ **STAR CLUB RADIO** (11) was regularly heard on 6206 in June & July. A strong continuous signal put on at Sun July 19th on 6251 kHz. SORRY, not a solid grid format.

⑱ **SUNRISE** RADIO from the UK can be heard loud and clear on 5850 testing airline via the very powerful tx of the German Deutsche Welle in Juelich. Sunrise is not a pirate station but a legal satellite operator based in the UK.

⑲ **RADIO DR. TIM** is a very active German station mainly concentrating on Sunnight broadcasts on 3.8 MHz. In recent months Dr. Tim was heard on

several frequencies including 3901, 3920 & 3945. New website <<http://www.fuerdrictim.de>>

⑳ **TRADITIONEN** leaked a 50 watts ng on 6220 Wed/Thurs August 15th/23th. Further pos were heard on 6250 and 3926 kHz. Add is Box 94, 7038 21 Zeistern, the Netherlands

㉑ **June 28th TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** was testing on 6254U Sat August 8th TAF put out an evening show on 5800 and a week later 3940 was in use. Signals usually are solid. Address is Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Website <<http://www.members.ad.com/GRNRecords>>

㉒ **THE 100** puts out shows on 6267 most Sundays. August 23rd the station was on air all day long with a more than average signal, even Mon morning 6267 was on. Also during the UK Bank Holiday weekend the station remained on air all night long (August 30th to 31st). Add is Box 63, Bistone, Wolverhampton WV14 6VS in the UK.

㉓ **Introducing UNIDS** Sun Sept. 13th in the late morning we monitored a huge signal on 7490 Music tests were observed on 6288, 6283 & 6300 early September during weekdays. Signals were very powerful. We have no idea what stations were conducting these tests. Popular music was being put out, so we believe both were legal operators

㉔ **Dutch UNION RADIO** was using 6185 June 20th Signal-strength was very good. Sun July 19th saw the station on 6270 and Sun Sept. 13th 6185 was again used. The 1m range 6185-6200 was quite often used by Dutch stations! Andis P.O.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

㉕ **VOICE OF SOUTH DUBLIN** sent us some interesting info. The story of the station started a few years ago. Freedoms 100 was a relay station via Radio Europe in Italy during a period of time over Mar 1990 - Sept 1991. Responses were received that it was decided to start link SWR broadcasts under the name Freedom Int. - the Voice of South Dublin. Pre-broadcasts on their link station and a few hundred watts of power were used on 6200. Broadcasts came to an end when the CP went to Israel for a few months. When he returned he decided to use only relay facilities abroad. The name was changed into the Voice of South Dublin. Relays are done via Paraguay and so now and then via Radio Cochabique in South America. WREC relays have ceased as the US station is no more. PIs are recorded in the studio of a licensed Dublin station. Sun July 12th saw the VOSD on 6200 on Pandora.

Add is VOSD, 303 Glenavon Park, Dublin 24, Ireland. Email <[voisofsouthdublin@eircom.net](mailto:voisofsouthdublin@eircom.net)>

㉖ **THE VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** has been heard on several freqs in July, August & September. For instance, Sun July 5th on 6211, Sat August 15th on 6282 (evening show). Remarkable. Sun Sept. 20th at approx. 14:00 UTC the station was heard testing on 7489 kHz/41 miles with a great signal although only low power was used. Many years ago 7490 was the station's feed channel. Address: P.O.Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, Holland. Soon the station will have its own very Email address.

㉗ **RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) recommended broadcasts on 11401 kHz August 23rd & Sept. 6th 1998. RWI was heard on the 26 mb They are going to prepare a special programme for November's special broadcasts when the 15th birthday (1983 - 1998) will be celebrated. The station's website <<http://www.imaginet.nl/~waves/index.htm>>

㉘ **2 Scottish WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** announced that they would be on a fortnightly basis on 7488 kHz from late June onwards. Many years ago 7488 was occupied by Radio Stala from Scotland, remember that one? July 26th & August 9th 7446 was used by WMR. Signals on the continent were for

㉙ **WREKINTN RADIO INT.** (10) has been heard almost weekly on 12256 Freqs but only for a good.

㉚ **As of July 6th 1998 RADIO FREE EAST COAST** has ceased its free radio operations on shortwave. Since WREC was started more than 5 years, several shows and ways have been carried out. Citing the CP: "My involvement in the hobby will always be a positive experience" For those of you who sent reports for the 5th Anniversary program the QSLs will be mailed out soon. So... this is WREC saying off. Thanks for listening and being there!"

㉛ **RADIO X INTERNATIONAL** is a new Swedish station which was heard on 6220 Sun August 16th. Radiox has good and Spanish music was played. Address is P.O.Box 4500, S-20232 Malmo, Sweden

㉜ **X-TREME RADIO** (10) has sent some info via Email. Sat August 1st a test was carried out on 6400 kHz. Due to a number of unexpected problems, the outputs only 60W instead of 40W. Moreover the modulation was not from 100%. The Extreme crew was rather disappointed but hoped that the engineer is able to fix the transmitter. Apart from Irma with her own 76 mb relays will be continued via Orange Radio. A new QSL-card is available for listeners. In September the Extreme team hopes to meet up with Ozone's Gary Stevens. Website <<http://www.xtremeradio.com/xtremehamradio>> Email address is <[xtremehamradio@orange.com](mailto:xtremehamradio@orange.com)>

㉝ **1998 - RADIOS 20000 INT.** (1) was noted on 5800 June 27th/28th but suffered from heavy CRM by RFL on 5805 kHz.

## OFFSHORE RADIO NEWS

### RADIO CAROLINE



## RADIO CAROLINE

Radio Cardinals RSI. Broadcast covering the area around the Isle of Sheppey took place from June 14th-July 11th 1996. The live Caroline broadcasts from the Ross Revenge were radiated on AM 1503 with apparently 'FM'. Reception reports came in from countries such as Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Jocks on board were Chris Kennedy, Stuart Russell, Brian Marin, Barry James, Selsie Brower, Caroline's Dutch representative, Jerry Wright & Johnny Recco. Some of the broadcasts were being used for the Wednesday evening satellite and SWM programmes via the Astra channel 50 and 15200 kHz SW. The theme of the 28 day event was to recruit sufficient supporters to be able to buy blocks of satellite radio time when the free sample air time currently being provided by Marin Communications comes to an end. These free broadcasts are taking place each Wednesday evening from 16.00 to 20.00 UK time with a power of 500 kW < [www.radiocaroline.co.uk](http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk) >. During the August 14th/15th Satellites SW & Satellite Festival Caroline was heard worldwide on numerous SW frequencies (see elsewhere).

The latest news is that Radio Caroline will be starting transmission on a regular basis on satellite via EKR. Sun September 20th would see the first shows between 10:00 and 18:00 UTC but this was cancelled. We are uncertain what will happen in the upcoming weeks.

## PIRATE SHIP ELECTRA PROJECT SCUTTLED

Another radio ship project has failed. According to a copy of a notice of a U.S. Marshals sale in the U.S. Court for the So. District of Georgia (Savannah Division), the "Offshore Radio Broadcast Station Tug Eletra," an all welded steel model barge, captain tower fitted with a complete radio broadcast station, including radio tower" was put up for sale for \$35,000 to the highest bidder on July 15 at 10:00 am by the U.S. Marshal. The ship ran into another boat on the way down, and there were some lawsuits involved. The preacher that was financing it ran out of money. Neither Scott nor Alan Werner was on the ship when any of that happened, nor did they have any involvement with the problems that caused the Feds to come. They both got paid by the preacher for all the work they did, so, other than the fact that the ship they worked so hard on won't be on the air, they both made out okay on the deal. Most people still were under the impression that both men were still involved. [Thanks to Anita McCormick, Doug Robertson & Chris Lobbard for this info]

## EURORADIO/ NEW OEM RADIO PORTS CD

This year's EURORADIO 98 - the annual Offshore Echoes event taking place in Calesi was held on Saturday 4th July. Guests included Alan West who was on Radio NorthWest (PNW) during one of the offshore radios more dramatic moments, Martin Kayne who was on Radio Essex as Michael Caine, on Radio Caroline after the MOA and also on RN1. Martin is now known as the writer of the "Off the Record" in Showtime magazine, under his real name of Andy Cade, Frank Turner, historian and author of a number of books about the Thames Estuary sea forts. These forts later became home to the offshore stations Radio Dutch, City, Tower, Essex, Invicta, KMG and 390.

EURADIO 98 also saw the launch of the new Offshore Echoes CD THE RADIO PORTS, which tells the story of the fort based offshore radio stations. Radio Forts F100 is the new double CD from Offshore Echoes, telling the story of the Fort based offshore radio stations, Radio Dutch, City, Tower, Invicta, KMG, 390, Essex, 399MS and the story of Swindon. Now on a double CD with remastered, expanded and new content from original LP, there's new archive and new interviews, plus a 12 page photo booklet and colour covers. The Radio Forts CD is available now and costs £21.99 post free. To coincide with the CD's release, there is now a Radio Forts web site < <http://www.radioports.com> >. For more information contact: Offshore Echoes at P O Box 1514, London W7 2LJ, UK. Email < [Chris\\_Ed@compuserve.com](mailto:Chris_Ed@compuserve.com) >.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## Satellite and Shortwave Radio Festival

Mid July Merlin Network One, MNO, announced a 48 hour Radio Festival on the 14th and 15th August. The MNO Radio Festival was celebrating over 30 years of commercial radio in the UK. The Festival featured commercial stations of the past, those trying to get re-started and the pioneering stations of today. Included within the line-up of the MNO Radio Festival was the longest running UK commercial radio station - Radio Caroline was joined by programme segments from Radio London, Rock Radio Network, European Classic Rock, and other stations. Eric Wiltsch commented, "People in the European radio industry will always remember 14 August 1967. However, it has moved on since then and the Merlin Network One Radio Festival will prove just how dynamic radio can and will become. Starting at 00.01 on Friday 14 August, radio listeners around the world were able to hear radio at its best. Two days crammed with the cream of the crop". The Merlin Network One Radio Festival was to be heard on Astra channel 50 to the UK on shortwave and satellite to Continental Europe and around the world on shortwave. MNO hire Christopher England Christopher England, operator of the innovative satellite radio station Europe (which broadcast in 1995/96) has been hired by Merlin Network One (MNO). Christopher will hold a multi-functional role at MNO with his primary being that of Studio Manager. Eric Wiltsch commented "Chris brings even yet more commercial and satellite expertise to the MNO broadcast team.

"Merlin Network One needs people with multi-functional skills and following on from the appointment of Keith Lewis, Christopher will be a valued team member. Christopher and Keith will, along with another team member yet to be announced, share the day to day Studio Management duties with Christopher also having responsibilities for other areas of the MNO business".

More MNO news. Merlin Network One will launch a full time service to the world later this year. Testes from MNO can be heard (at times UK) from 6.00pm Wednesday through to 02.00 Thursday each week. For more information < [www.mno.net](http://www.mno.net) > or Email < [mno@caex.co.uk](mailto:mno@caex.co.uk) >.

## WBCQ STARTS TEST ON 7415 kHz

Last time (June) we informed you about Al Werner's new SW project. Thursday, September 17, 1998, an interesting article appeared in the The Bangor Daily News under the title "Monticello shortwave station goes on the air". Here's a summary of the article with thanks to Anita Louise McCormick. WBCQ, a brandnew shortwave station based in Monticello, began broadcasting Tuesday night September 15th. According to Alan H. Werner, the station's manager, the shortwave signal has so far been heard as far away as New Zealand. "I don't think we can go farther than that," said an excited Werner during a telephone interview Tuesday. He said Email and telephone calls have been coming in from Seattle, Washington, Germany, and France as well. "It's beyond our wildest dreams," he said. WBCQ, which broadcasts on 7415 kHz (241 metres) on the shortwave band, is listed as a station that is for everyone, with no particular agenda in mind. "It's a cornucopia of ideas," said Werner. "We don't want to be like all the other talk-radio programs around the world. We're trying to make it as refreshing as possible." Most shortwave stations, he said, broadcast either government news or religious programs. While WBCQ will soon be offering religious programs, the intention is to be as varied as possible. "We've got everything from right wing conservatives to your love, peace and understanding people," he said. "This is a free-speech radio station." The station is a commercial enterprise, which means that in order for programming to be broadcast, it must be paid for. Anybody can broadcast a program, whether it's an hour of rock 'n' roll music, discussion about their national government or corruption in the courts. So far, the most popular programming, Werner said, is his evening show that does a lot with him in northern Maine. "Northern Maine is not like the rest of New England, or the southern part of the state or Massachusetts," he said, noting that much of the Email received so far has been to express an interest in the region. "We want to tell the rest of the world about the uniqueness of Northern Maine and to tell people about us." People around the world are going to know that in the ensuing months. For now, WBCQ is broadcasting from a small mobile home on Brillion Road in Monticello. The trailer has already been used by radio station WREB-AM 1470. That station, with which Werner also is involved, does a simulcast talk-radio format with its sister station WEGP-AM 1390 in Presque Isle. Werner said work began on the shortwave station in April and was finished last month. A new transmitter building has been built and a new antenna tower erected. The tower is 60 foot high and, according to Werner, looks like a giant, old-fashioned TV roof antenna, except the elements that stick out at the top are 60-foot long as well. At the present time, the station goes on the air at about 8 pm or 9 pm and continues broadcasting for anywhere from four to nine hours. Werner said as the schedule firms up, broadcasts will probably run for about six hours a day. The goal, he said, is to eventually get enough programming to be on the air from 9 am to 3 am the next day, every day. "It's a lot of fun," said Werner. "It's been a real exciting week." The address for a QSL card is: Alan H. Werner, 97 High Street, Kannanbene, ME 04043, U.S.A. WBCQ will have a web site up < <http://www.wbcq.com> >. The site is still under construction. So far they've put up a page of contact info for the station, a guest book, an old radio price and info guide, and a GREAT 2D graphic chatroom. You'll need to download some free software from <http://www.theplace.com> before you use the graphic chat feature. It takes a few minutes, but it's well worth the wait. Stay tuned to WBCQ - The Planet on 7415 kHz!

## ISLE OF MAN LONG WAVE LICENCE

It's getting a pretty interesting story and started some 4 years ago. It all started as a story not really seriously taken by people within the radio industry. The story of the fight to establish a high power international radio station broadcasting on Longwave from the Isle of Man. In the early stage it was proposed to use 225 kHz. Important was that the BBC declared they were not interested to use 225 for their proposed News Service. The people behind the project, it later became, the Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company (IMIBC) believed they could persuade the IOM government that their project was viable and that 225 kHz could be reassigned to the island. However, the UK Radio Authority decided they would need 225 because they were afraid another commercial Atlantic 252 look-a-like would be radiating powerful signals into the UK from outside its jurisdiction. In the end the RA said that they would not use 225. In the mean time however, the Isle of Man was looking at an ever better channel - 279 kHz. Again, from the IMIBC, a second station showed an interest in commencing broadcasts from the Island - United Christian Broadcasters. They are able using numerous relatively low-powered pirate transmitters in the Irish Republic, and also been into the UK, via a powerful former Soviet MMT transmitter. The next episode in this exciting story is the Isle of Man Government to open the frequency to bids. The IMIBC and UCB will be applying for a licence and famous are even a third group calling itself



"Radio Caroline" are joining the two others. It's not known if this is the official Radio Caroline group run by Peter Moore. On September 4th we were informed via a press release that the Isle of Man has been officially assigned a frequency for a high-power long wave radio station. The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company Ltd has confirmed that its application to operate the station includes several well-known names from the radio and TV world, including several offshore radio "names". The team (which IOMBC has had to keep secret to protect their current positions) has been assembled by the IOMBC's Chairman, Paul Rusing, whose own company has included work of high-power radio stations in several countries, with offshore stations such as Radio Caroline, Laser 550 and Channel 2000 and more recently in licensing matters with Classic FM and Virgin, two national UK channels. The formal assignment of 279 kHz to the Isle of Man marks the end of a four year battle by the Manx Company IOMBC with the British Government and on even longer for the Isle of Man Government. It's now over thirty years ago that the Isle of Man first asked for permission to license a high-power radio station, but the authorities in Westminster always needed such bids claiming that this would be unfair competition for UK-based radio stations. Four years ago the Manx Government decided that its own station (Manx Radio) had heretofore concentrate on serving only the Isle of Man. This opened a window of opportunity for IOMBC who started to carry out the negotiations to obtain a frequency for the island and have lobbied UK politicians and Whitehall officials ever since. The battle was primarily a legal one - European regulations dictate that a country cannot refuse permission for new broadcasters on economic grounds, and this was one of the major points which IOMBC's legal team made very forcibly. Rusing raised the funds to pay for a high-powered team of lawyers in London and Strasbourg and late in 1995 London finally conceded and commenced the process of clearing a suitable frequency, which has culminated in 279 kHz Long Wave being assigned. While many have suggested that AM is no longer of wide appeal, due to its low-fidelity signal and susceptibility to interference, there is expected to be substantial interest from other media groups. So far, only IOMBC's Manx company formed in 1994 specifically to apply for the license, although two other UK-based applicants have also expressed an interest. "We've spent the last few years discussing the project with Island politicians and officials and have already prepared a first class proposal," claims IOMBC's Chairman Paul Rusing. "Our line up includes several well-known presenters currently heard on major UK stations, and a management team which includes some people unknown in the broadcast circles. With the £10 million funding package being sought by individuals and companies in the Isle of Man, England and the USA the project will be a truly international one. Paul Rusing has revealed that their plans include further outlets on short wave and satellite. "One of our investors is heavily involved in DAB, and if its feasible we might seek an outlet there. If the cost and audience size justified it, but DAB is really something we've been considering against 500,000 Watts on Long Wave." There are several hurdles to be completed before the station can launch however. There will be a full debate on the proposals in the Isle of Man Parliament, Tynwald, a thousand year old whom has seen some interesting (to radio listeners) debates. In 1957, the plucky Isle of Man Government refused to apply the UK's Marine Offences Act, and Harold Wilson's Labour government resorted to getting the Queen to sign an Order in Council, forcing the island, a Crown dependency, through independent of the UK and outside the European Union, to accept the law. Long Wave stations need a very tall structure. Atlantic 252's mast is 1000 feet tall, and, met with furious opposition from local residents and environmentalists are expected to oppose a huge mast being built on the ecologically sensitive island. "We have one or two new solutions to this problem," promises James Evans, a Welsh-born lawyer who has been involved in a dozen radio projects and a renowned planning expert. "The Isle of Man has completely different legislation to the UK and offshore radio fans will know full well that an antenna is vertical." The news of the frequency assignment has been welcomed on the Isle of Man with front page newspaper headlines and lead stories on Manx Radio, the oldest commercial radio station in the British Isles. The Government's communications office expressed some surprise that the frequency had finally been assigned to the Isle. "We first discussed this with Rusing four years ago and he was certain he could defeat the many obstacles which have been put in the island's way, so, with nothing to lose, the Minister let him go ahead. And he has come up trumps, with half a million watts - more powerful than any station in the UK except the BBC World Service."

The Communications Commission of the Isle of Man Government confirmed the assignment of 279 kHz for use for a high power station, broadcasting from the Isle of Man. For further information contact: IOMBC, P.O.Box 279, Ramsey, IM99 4HT. Email: [Rusing@compuserve.com](mailto:Rusing@compuserve.com) > Worldwide Broadcast Consultants, P.O.Box 12, Wimborne, Dorset BH20 7YT **Atlantic 252**

Late July/early August longwave station Atlantic 252 started introducing changes to its music policy. Playlists include much more new music, and these tracks are being announced on air as "the new music revolution". By the way, Atlantic 252 has been changing its music format gradually in a bid to reinvent itself as a "trendy, underground sounding" station. The current playlist of hot-hits will be ditched in favour of new music and unlicensed tracks. The changes are the brainchild of Atlantic's new marketing controller, Alison Victory, who plays a 2.5 million pound advertising campaign in the UK once the changes are complete. As yet there is no news of any purchase of CLT's 80% stake in the station.

#### New website EFR

Recently RadioWorks completed its first project for European Klassik Rock

by producing its new web site at <http://www.euroradio.demon.co.uk> > containing a major section about Digital Audio Broadcasting. European Klassik Rock is the only independent radio station running a pilot transmission on NTL's London DAB multiplex with a completely new service. GReat news for Peter McFarlane fans, this former Ocean, Spire and Cheltenham 603 broadcaster Peter McFarlane is the latest person to join EFR. Peter McFarlane, better known as Kevin Turner to Caroline supporters, used to do the Breakfast Show on the Rose Revenge in the middle 80s. He left Caroline after the giant 50m tall antenna tower collapsed back in November 1987.

#### Carry escapes from prison

Chris Carry escaped from prison on Tuesday August 11th and according to a report in the Mirror newspaper, UK police are searching for him. He had been serving a four year sentence for piracy of BSkyB. The escape came ten days after a court in the UK dismissed an appeal for the sentence to be quashed. After having pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to defraud BSkyB in February, Carry was sent for four years. No doubt the news of the escape will upset those in BSkyB and News Datcom who had considered that the piracy of their system was stopped. The prison that Carry escaped from was a low security "open prison". Most of the inmates are white collar criminals and inmates were trusted not to abscond. Carry apparently took a break from his job in the stone setting works that he was going to take a visit. He then went to the prison laundry with a petrol plant apparently to get some compost for it. A white Peugeot car pulled up and Carry ran to it and got in. The car left at high speed. Police were expecting Carry to make his way to Spain. They are apparently watching the airports and seaports in the hope that they will catch him. Once a pirate, always a pirate.

#### Roger Day

Roger Day is heading a team claiming that they are putting Melakko back on the map as far as commercial radio is concerned. Maid FM, on RSL, began broadcasting on Monday 21st September at 87.7 FM. This is the latest development in a campaign to get a full-time local radio station for the county town, a campaign which originated in the 1970s. The new station is managed by Roger Day, the former Programme Director of Invicta Radio from 1984 until 1992. He has teamed up with Paul Hardwell, who programmed Maidstone Festival Radio in 1993 and who founded the County Town Radio campaign which ran from 1996-1997.

#### RSL, London

Radio London set to return.

Radio London returned with an RSL broadcast in the Harlow area July 4th-July 31. The operation had no connections with the two previous Big L RSLs in the Summer of 1997 and December 1997. These were set up by The Broadcasts in July came from landbased studios (pretty difficult to go offshore in Harlow) and were being operated by a local businessman Nick Jeffery. The London name and jingles were being used under licence from East Anglican Productions. It has also been suggested that Radio London programmes will be aired on the expanded Merlin Network One service at a later date, but this has yet to be confirmed.

#### VT4 AM tests

There has been an awful lot of speculation recently about a week of test transmissions on 107.1 AM, which were widely heard from Paris to Amsterdam and from London to Brussels. Because various popular offshore themes were played (the RNL theme, Crunchy Granda Suite etc.) several radio DXers/Freedom radio people were very curious where these tests came from. The truth is these transmissions came from the France Telecom owned Site site in Northern France. Output power was varying between 10 and 40 kW. The tests have been done to prove to Belgian commercial TV channel VT4, that reasonable coverage of Belgium can be made from that site. "VT4" (which some have called a proto TV station as it began life by being uplinked from Brookmans Park by the BBC) have appointed former Radio Mi Amigo and Radio 7 man Tom Schipper as development manager to look at opportunities to broadcast to Belgium. Schipper ran the highly successful Radio 7, a Belgian near-national station in the 1980s. Belgium is a hotbed of radio intrigue and adventure at the moment - the founder of Radio 10 Gold, Jason Soar, who sold his share for millions last year, is also looking at setting up a new station in Belgium called Radio Vanda, with Peter Van Den, one of Belgium's best known DJs. The 107.1 tests continued until Monday 3rd August. French regulars, the CSA, are currently trying to prevent non-French nationals running



Transmitters in France. The question is whether they win the battle. Monday August 31st at 09:00 CEST VT4 tests were recommended, the time on 1295 kHz. This new series of tests occurred the following Friday September 4th, two days earlier as planned. After 5 days conclusions could be drawn making further tests superfluous. Time surprisingly came from a BBC World Service transmitting site in Orfordness near Ipswich, Suffolk. This site is run by Merlin Communications. No less than 500 kW of power was being used during the tests, providing crystal clear reception in Western Europe and beyond. According to Tom Schipper the ERP was 1.5 mW because of the strong antenna beam directed to the east ('highly directional towards continental Europe'). No doubt the antenna was once used by Americans radiating their messages towards the Eastern bloc. Similar to the 10/11 tests, non-stop mix was being played with typical announcements twice an hour. Despite the 10/11 tests on French site, VT4 claimed not to have been applying for a French license. Thanks to Raul Rusing/RadioVisse for the report.

#### RadioVisse on the Internet

In the late 70's/early 80's the Dutch/Belgian RadioVisse magazine was a quality radio magazine mainly focusing on free radio. One of its original founders, Jean-Luc Bostyn is still involved with RadioVisse returning in the world of radio with a quality website reporting about the Belgian, Dutch & Int. Media. Frequently the site is updated containing news about SW free radio, offshore, Caroline and much more. Articles are in English and Dutch. <http://radiovisse.mipnet.com>

#### Dave Windsor

Quality Media News provider TTS-Medapre reports that a new personally page is open, highlighting former Radio Caroline DJ DAVE WINDSOR. This page can be found via the TTS-Medapre index page <http://www.medapre.co.uk/>.

## MADE IN HOLLAND

#### JUNE

You probably never heard of Radio Maasland, a local radio station in the very Southern part of the Netherlands. The governmental watchdog Commissaris voor de Media accuses the station not obeying the rules for local radio. A public local radio station has to spend 50% of its time on information about culture, arts, sciences and religion. Radio Maasland only reaches a ratio of 13%. This dispute is very interesting because the vast majority of Dutch local radio stations act like Radio Maasland. The outcome certainly will have heavy consequences for all local stations. June 17 a hearing is held about the assignment of 33 FM and 7 AM frequencies to commercial regional stations. One of the applicants is the so-called Radio Caroline we reported about last time. September 1st the frequencies will be allocated. Fifty-seven stations are interested in one or more frequencies. Seven of these stations (like Rebecca radio, BPM and HOT Radio) have joined together and published their own proposal for the assignment of frequencies. Not very remarkable, most frequencies will go to these seven stations. As a result a lot of the other applicants are filled with anger.

#### JULY

It's sun, sun, summertime and as a result there isn't any interesting radio news this month...

#### AUGUST

Again we can announce the coming birth of a new radio station. This time the name will be Radio Goeland. The station will be on cable in a small-Western part of the country first, but the people behind hope to get terrestrial frequencies later this year. The line up of presenters merely consists of old-Vienna folks, like Ad Bourman, Chiel Montigné, Eddy Becker and Krijn Torma. The station will start broadcasting September 1st, aiming at people older than 45 (just like the presenters themselves). Delta Radio, planning to broadcast on 171 kHz long wave, has tried to get permission to build its masts in the Eastern part of the country. As reported at an earlier stage massive protests of inhabitants of villages near the proposed transmitting site resulted in a negative outcome.

Now Delta needs new plans: erecting two 400 meter high masts some 25 miles off the Dutch/Belgian coast. Maybe it will be the fish who are going to protest against these plans this time.

Reports that the former Lsier 558 ship Communicator is to be scrapped have been strongly denied by Arie Swerts, who continues the vessel on behalf of its owners. Herbie Visser reports: 'Nipponia (the company owning and operating the broadcasting facilities on board the vessel) has cleaned out the whole ship, checked the generators, transmitter, mast etc. The Communicator therefore was off the air for a few days, and the relay of O-Radio was taken over by the Nozama site in Lopet. Apparently the station

is seriously looking into the possibility to moor the ship near Almere (near Amsterdam) and to abandon the ship in eastern part of the country where the programs are coming from now. O-Radio has the serious intention to move all broadcasting operations to the MV Communicator and thus entirely broadcast from the ship again. The reason why this hasn't happened so far is because the organization is currently still debating with the Dutch Ministry dealing with frequencies and planning permissions about the move. Thus, instead of an end to offshore radio history, there'll be an increase of offshore radio history. The latest ratings in the Netherlands however, show once again that O-Radio, despite that AM frequency on 1224 kHz, has a marketshare of 0.0 percent. Of the commercials, best station is Sky Radio with 14.4. Radio 10 Gold is 2nd with 9.5. Radio 538 is 3rd with 7.1 percent. Radio Noordzee is currently the 4th commercial station with 6.7 percent. Radio Veronica has 4.1 percent marketshares and Arrow Classic Rock has 0.6 percent. These new ratings arrived yesterday and they reflect the time between 0700 and 2400 hours UTC."

#### SEPTEMBER

The 33 FM and 7 AM 'all-over' frequencies are assigned to commercial regional stations. Stevens like Rebecca, 8FM and HOT Radio are the great winners. They will cover large parts of the country from the beginning of 1999 onwards.

#### Dutch legislation to go offshore to escape planning laws

Delta Radio, a station licensed by the Dutch Government to broadcast on longwave, is to locate its transmitter in International Waters in order to bypass planning laws and environmental protests. Dutch radio expert Herbie Visser writes: 'Funny things are happening around Delta 171, the Dutch longwave project (partly) owned by multi-billion-dollar speculator George Soros. After the environmentalists stood against the construction of a site containing four 300-meter high ammonia towers and a 2.5 MW transmitter (with an output power of 2.5 MW ERP [1]) in Koedijk, somewhere in the middle of the Netherlands, the Delta management (managed by lawfirm Clifford Chance, The Delta 171 headquarters have the same address as the Amsterdam office of this international lawfirm, and one of the Clifford Chance lawyers currently is acting president of Delta 171) decided to have the masts constructed in the Northsea and beam the signal towards the UK. However, a number of environmental pressure groups stood up, and started procedures against the construction of this site. The 300-meter masts and the 2.5 MW transmitter, causing that these masts would kill thousands and thousands of birds, and that a station power of 2.5 MW on longwave would most probably not be a good idea for the health of the fish in this area. And yes, the environmentalists pressure groups can still delay the construction of these masts for a very long time, according to Dutch law... So, the lawyers from the Dutch Radio Communications Agency (from the Dutch Government) came up with an alternative [2]! It has now been decided to construct this tremendous transmitter site in INTERNATIONAL WATERS!! This has already been confirmed by both the Dutch Government AND the Delta 171 organization.

The reason is, that environmentalists pressure groups can't start procedures against anything happening outside Dutch jurisdiction area... and thus can't object against the station killing the answes. Despite the fact that I definitely don't mind another radiostation coming on to the answes... I'm afraid the environmentalists are right this time... I would personally not like to be involved with a radiostation which is killing off tremendous amounts of birds, let alone that I'm quite reluctant to live near a site, where a 2.5 MEGAWATT signal would be broadcasting from I think that by the time that station gets onto the answes (which should be in the course of next year) I'll stop eating fish which was caught in the Northsea. The Dutch Governmental lawyers and those from Clifford Chance are convinced that broadcasting from international waters would be legal in this case... I, however, am not sure about this... The Netherlands will be using its part of the Continental Shelf for something it can't be used for. And the station will definitely operate outside Dutch jurisdiction area. When the Dutch environmental laws are no longer in effect, no Dutch laws will be in effect there as far as I know. Which also means that Delta 171 could, without any problem, advertise tobacco-adds, indecent material, whatever... March 1999 could face the start of building the antenna towers.

Sources: SRS News, Mark Brown, Herbie Visser, Paul Rusing, Chris Collens, Martien Boonstra, RadioVisse, Hans Knol, Newstide, Ton in Ton [2]

Remember FRS-Holland is ON Sept. 27th and other October 18th or 25th (or both) to celebrate its 18th birthday. SW Free Radio like it is meant to be on 48,41 and 25 meters (11470 kHz; 1.53).

**[2] September-August '97: 70990 BAND 10 GOLD** broadcasted a special offshore tribute programme commemorating former pirates Radio Veronica and Radio Noordzee Int. At the same time the station celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Programmes were aired from the MV Fortune which sailed along the Dutch coast from Scheveningen to Rotterdam. On board several former offshore jacks were taking part in this five day broadcast between 10:00-15:00 hours. The hours of nostalgia with memories, anecdotes, interviews and telephone calls with former offshore staff, the music from the 60s and 70s, and of course numerous programme extracts from the heydays of Veronica and RNL. **FRS Sales Productions** offers these 5 hours in the best quality you can imagine (FM stereo) for only DM 40.00/ £ 12.50. If you order less than 5 hours, you pay DM 10.00/ £ 3.25 per hour.

Payments are accepted in cash, by Eurocheque or by L.M.O. No other foreign cheques please! Eurocheques must be written out in either Dutch guilder or German Marks. Do not forget your bank number and signature, otherwise we cannot exchange your cheque. You may send Dutch, English, German, Belgian, USA or French banknotes. Make sure it's the equivalent of the prices listed above. All prices include postage & packing. Address: P.O.Box 2727, 6849 ZG Heren, the Netherlands.